

# *Los Angeles County Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures*

## **:: NEWS BULLETIN ::**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT: Cato R. Fiksdal 626.575.5451; Pastor Herrera Jr. 213.974.9750**

### **COUNTY SEALER, AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS DIRECTOR, GETTING THE *BUYER BEWARE* MESSAGE OUT ABOUT PRICE ACCURACY**

#### **ALSO: LISTING OF LATEST COMPLETED SCANNER OVERCHARGE CASES**

Cato R. Fiksdal, County Sealer of Weights and Measures, and Pastor Herrera Jr., Director of the County Department of Consumer Affairs, announced today the publication of two new brochures to assist shoppers and retailers become more aware of pricing accuracy in stores. "Pastor and his staff have produced two excellent brochures to help reduce scanner overcharge," said Mr. Fiksdal. "One is geared to retailers and outlines consumer friendly store policies; the other is for shoppers, and alerts them to the types of problems our staff has encountered during their inspections."

Mr. Fiksdal stated that the brochures for retailers will go out in mailings, and will be provided to store managers by Department staff. Some of the points for retailers to consider:

- ✓ Resolve pricing disputes "on the spot." Don't force customers to wait in additional lines for resolution of their problem.
- ✓ Conduct in-house undercover audits to confirm pricing accuracy.
- ✓ Use cash registers that display prices to the customer so they can see what they are being charged.

Brochures for consumers will be available at County offices, and at consumer protection fairs. Things for shoppers to do include:

- ☐ Immediately point out any overcharges to the cashier.
- ☐ Don't be afraid to ask the store about their policy when overcharges occur. Some stores will give you the item free, or discount the price.
- ☐ Pay attention to the cash register display screen to make sure you are charged the right price.

Mr. Herrera noted, "Both departments share the goal of protecting the consumer from being overcharged at the checkout counter. These informative brochures will help to that end," Both brochures may be obtained by calling 1-800-665-2900, or 213.974.1452.

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Listed below are cases completed during the month of July, 2002.

1. **Cambridge Farms Market, 12431 Burbank Blvd., N. Hollywood**

Date of offense: 07/30/02

Charge: One count of scanner overcharge of one dollar or less.

Convictions: Stipulated

Fines and fees: \$100 administrative civil penalty

2. **Food 4Less #396, 3000 Baldwin Park Blvd., Baldwin Park**

Date of offense: 03/18/02

Charges: 5 counts of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$1713

3. **Handi Market, 2514 Magnolia Blvd., Burbank**

Date of offense: 07/17/02

Charge: One count of scanner overcharge of one dollar or less

Conviction: Stipulated

Fines and fees: \$100 administrative civil penalty

4. **K-Mart #3169, 249 S. Diamond Bar Blvd., Diamond Bar**

Date of offense: 12/17/01

Charge: 1 count of scanner overcharge

Conviction: Nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$1323

5. **K-Mart #4282, 333 S. Hacienda Blvd., Industry**

Date of offense: 12/17/01

Charges: 1 count of scanner overcharge

Convictions: Nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$648

6. **K-Mart #4281, 1162 N. Citrus Ave., Covina**

Date of offense: 12/20/01

Charges: 6 counts of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$1708, plus 3 years summary probation

7. **K-Mart #4320, 10400 Rosecrans Ave., Bellflower**  
Date of offense: 12/02/01  
Charges: 11 counts of scanner overcharge  
Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere  
Fines and fees: \$1513, plus 1 year summary probation
8. **Kragen Auto Parts #1327, 13601 Hawthorne Blvd., Hawthorne**  
Date of offense: 06/15/02  
Charge: One count of scanner overcharge of one dollar or less  
Conviction: Stipulated  
Fines and fees: \$100 administrative civil penalty
9. **Macy's #68, 3400 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Manhattan Beach**  
Date of offense: 12/20/01  
Charges: 4 counts of scanner overcharge  
Convictions: 3 counts, nolo contendere  
Fines and fees: \$3213, plus 1 year summary probation
10. **Mervyn's #3215, 200 Los Cerritos Mall, Cerritos**  
Date of offense: 01/03/02  
Charge: 1 count of scanner overcharge  
Conviction: nolo contendere  
Fines and fees: \$918
11. **Officemax #625, 3665 Pacific Coast Highway, Torrance**  
Date of offense: 10/18/01  
Charges: 5 counts of scanner overcharge  
Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere  
Fines and fees: \$5961, plus 1 year summary probation
12. **PETsMart #109, 3347 E. Foothill Blvd., Pasadena**  
Date of offense: 07/10/02  
Charge: 1 count of scanner overcharge of one dollar or less  
Convictions: Stipulation  
Fines and fees: \$100 civil administrative penalty
13. **Radio Shack #3512, 12751 Towne Center Drive, Cerritos**  
Date of offense: 2/27/02  
Charges: 4 counts of scanner overcharge  
Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere  
Fines and fees: \$1560, plus 1 year summary probation

14. **Robinsons-May #4, 5100 Lakewood Blvd., Lakewood**  
Date of offense: 2/25/02  
Charge: 1 count of scanner overcharge  
Conviction: Nolo contendere  
Fines and fees: \$1102
15. **Sue Mills, Inc., 5844 Sepulveda Blvd., Van Nuys, CA**  
Date of offense: 06/04/02  
Charge: 1 count of scanner overcharge of one dollar or less  
Conviction: Stipulation  
Fines and fees: \$100 civil administrative penalty
16. **Target #1305, 11525 E. South Street, Cerritos**  
Date of offense: 02/26/02  
Charge: 1 count of scanner overcharge  
Conviction: Nolo contendere  
Fines and fees: \$918
17. **Target, 20200 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos**  
Date of offense: 02/26/02  
Charge: 1 count of scanner overcharge  
Conviction: Nolo contendere  
Fines and fees: \$270
18. **Target #199, 1200 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Manhattan Beach**  
Date of offense: 1/04/02  
Charge: 1 count of scanner overcharge  
Conviction: 1 count, nolo contendere  
Fines and fees: \$1323
19. **Target #290, 2169 Redondo Beach Blvd., Gardena**  
Date of offense: 12/26/01  
Charges: 4 counts of scanner overcharge  
Convictions 1 count, nolo contendere  
Fines and fees: \$1300